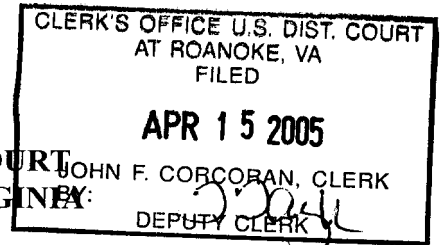


IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA  
ROANOKE DIVISION



GORDON GRAY COCKERHAM,  
Petitioner,

v.

UNITED STATES,  
Respondent.

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Criminal Action No. 4:03-cr-70074

Civil Action No. 7:05-cv-00221

MEMORANDUM OPINION

By: Jackson L. Kiser

Senior United States District Judge

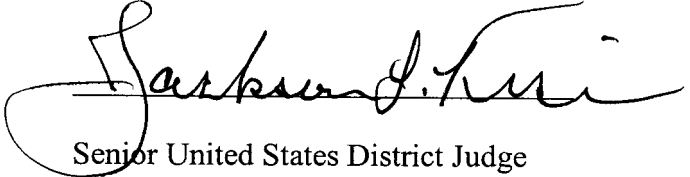
Petitioner Gordon Gray Cockerham, a federal inmate proceeding pro se, brings this action to Vacate, Set Aside, or Correct Sentence, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255. In his petition, Cockerham requests re-sentencing as a result of a new constitutional rule announced in the Supreme Court's opinions in Blakely v. Washington, 124 S. Ct. 2531, 159 L. Ed. 2d 403 (2004) and United States v. Booker, 125 S. Ct. 738 (Jan. 12, 2005).

Cockerham's conviction became final on May 9, 2004, when the ten-day period in which to file a notice of appeal expired. See Fed. R. App. Pro. 4(b)(1)(A)(i).

It appears that Cockerham is attempting to claim that Blakely is a new rule, which is retroactive to cases on collateral review. However, the court finds that Blakely does not apply retroactively to Cockerham's case. See Lilly v. United States, 342 F. Supp. 2d 532 (W.D.Va. 2004). In addition, because Cockerham has admitted that he did not appeal his sentence, it is clear that his claims would be procedurally barred. See Bousley v. United States, 523 U.S. 614, 621 (1998).

Because the rule in Blakely does not apply retroactively to Cockerham's case, the court must dismiss his petition. An appropriate order will be entered this day.

ENTER: This 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2005

  
Senior United States District Judge